



Press Release



**Congressman John Conyers, Jr.
Michigan, 14th District**

**Ranking Member, U.S. House Judiciary Committee
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

www.house.gov/judiciary_democrats/index.html

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CONYERS EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND ABUSE IN AMERICA'S PRISONS

Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, stated that, "I am looking forward to following the work of the Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons and to hearing their recommendations and advice for making our prisons safer and less abusive for both prisoners and corrections officers. The work of the Commission has added urgency in that our nation currently maintains record levels of incarceration and must develop more comprehensive policies to encourage rehabilitation and reduce recidivism."

The Commission will examine the nature and extent of violence, sexual abuse, humiliation, and other serious forms of mistreatment in American prisons and jails. In addition, the Commission will explore the consequences of abusive penal environments for the health and safety of prisoners, corrections officers, and the families and communities to which they return – whether at the end of each work day, or upon release from a period of incarceration.

The Commission is non-partisan and co-chaired by former United States Attorney General Nicholas de B. Katzenbach and the Honorable John Gibbons, former Chief Judge of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. The members include other respected civic leaders, many with experience in the administration of justice and law enforcement; corrections professionals; advocates for the rights of prisoners and also former prisoners; and members of the religious community. The Commission is staffed by and funded through the Vera Institute of Justice, a nonprofit organization that has worked closely with leaders in government and civil society for more than 40 years to solve some of the toughest social problems and to make the administration of justice more effective, fair, and humane.

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